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March 18, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Implementation of Section 304 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996;*
Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices, CS Docket No. 97-80
Ex Parte Communication

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter is submitted pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules to provide notice of a permitted oral *ex parte* presentation in the above-referenced proceeding. On March 17, 2005, Paula Boyd of Microsoft Corporation spoke by telephone with Jon Cody, Legal Advisor to Chairman Michael Powell. The discussion pertained to the letter filed in this docket by representatives of Microsoft, Comcast Corp., and Time Warner Inc. on February 24. Ms. Boyd discussed Microsoft's reasons for urging the Commission to defer the integration ban, which were based on a joint commitment by the three companies to work towards expediting solutions on issues concerning bidirectional retail cable products, software-based conditional access, unidirectional retail cable products, and unidirectional multistream CableCARDs.

Please address any questions to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Newcomer Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Williams" clearly legible.

Mary Newcomer Williams
Counsel to Microsoft

cc: Jon Cody